

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Time.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to follow up a little bit on Senator Crosby and Senator Engel and Senator Brashear's comments, because I really need to know who we will be impacting if we adopt the Wesely amendment, especially in the environment that we have of very low unemployment. I, personally, have tried to conduct a survey within my district to see what jobs there are that are paying minimum wage. My office has gone through the Occupational Employment Statistics that's published by the Department of Labor, and even in past years very few of the jobs were paying at minimum wage. In terms of the survey that I conducted, I did not find a single job in my district that was paying minimum wage and that included talking to people at grocery stores, fast food restaurants. The fast food restaurants were paying \$7 an hour. Telemarketing jobs, even entry level, were \$7.50 an hour. There just don't seem to be a lot of jobs out there. I've even talked to some people who were involved in custodial work and they were being paid over \$4.25 an hour. And so I think that we're looking at this at a time that our economy is not...certainly, the work situation is not what Senator Wesely was talking about in terms of really being...people being taken advantage of, and I believe the marketplace right now is addressing the needs because they need the workers. Ernie Goss, who's a Creighton economist, says that no one works for minimum wage here and certainly in my district that's true. And if we do adopt the Wesely amendment, we will be moving into being the ninth highest state in terms of our minimum wage. Now that may be justified if there are a number of people who are not receiving minimum wage and are doing jobs that require a certain level of skill that justifies paying over minimum wage, but if we're talking about entry level positions that we're going to allow people to develop their skills and we already have a very tight market and people are competing for employees very much, I'm...I really would like to just see who we're talking about addressing with this amendment. Because, you know, if the case